



Admiral's CORNER

FROM COMMANDER, NAVAL SAFETY CENTER



Setting the Right Pace for Success

Just a short note to discuss a couple issues about on- and off-duty safety.

I had the pleasure of giving the opening address at the Fourth Annual Aviation Maintenance Safety Conference. More than 200 maintenance and safety professionals attended, and I think we all gained from sharing programs and ideas.

My maintenance officer, LCdr. Bert Ortiz, and his team did an outstanding job assembling an interesting group of presentations, live demos, and interactive sessions. This event won't solve all the problems or mishaps in the fleet, but it did increase safety awareness. That focus is important as we fight the Global War on Terror, do all the other tasking in front of us, and battle the ever present problems that crop up from increased op tempo.

In this issue, you'll see several stories that talk about "mission creep" and the effects of increased op tempo or pace on sound maintenance decision-making. I urge every maintainer to think before acting and to ask themselves whether a certain task passes the "smell test." If something doesn't look right or smell right, it probably isn't right. Take care of yourselves and shipmates.

That's the same theme for my second topic: traffic and off-duty safety. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the Navy and Marine Corps lost four people, raising the PMV death toll to 100 for the fiscal year. That means we are off to the worst start in 14 years, and we have only four months—three months when you get this issue—to turn things around.

Just like on-duty mishaps, it will take a team effort and shipmates looking out for shipmates to make a difference. If you're a second class petty officer, you know more about your peers and younger folks than your chief, division officer, or someone senior in the command. Take action; talk with the

shipmates in your shop and other shops about being safe when you get off duty. We continue to see unwanted and preventable deaths because a victim didn't buckle a seatbelt, fell asleep at the wheel, or had too much to drink. We must end these mistakes.

Step up to the plate, whether on or off-duty, and hit a homerun; don't strike out. Together, we can make a difference, and attitude is what makes a team work. You've heard the adage, "There's no 'I' in team;" well, the same attitude applies as we try to solve off-duty deaths. We have to help each other. Your families and friends want you home alive, so do your part to stay safe.

RADM George Mayer

Editorial

By Dan Steber

This quarter's issue is a bit larger than normal. We were able to provide some extra pages to recognize Sailors, Marines and civilians doing good deeds (BZs) around the fleet and making mishap reduction a reality.

We also responded to a survey done at the Fourth Annual Aviation Maintenance Safety Conference. With overwhelming results, fleet maintainers told us they wanted to see several old features brought back, including the Airwing Toolbox, mishap stats, and the Good, Bad and Ugly section. You also told us you wanted to see more photos of maintainers working safely around the fleet.

Mech is celebrating its 45th anniversary of support to the fleet, and it always has been a product by maintainers and for maintainers. Thanks to your inputs, that support continues.